



**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 7, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, and Gina Joyce

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Clerk Moeller; City Attorney Thames;

**Absent:** Deirdre Kvale (with prior notice)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES**

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

Both a City Council Work Session and an Economic Development Authority meeting occurred prior to the regular Council meeting.

Mayor Miner informed Council that sadly, Planning Commissioner Steve Keating passed away on February 26, 2023. Mr. Keating was very dedicated to the City and will be greatly missed. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, where Mr. Keating served as a Trustee. He expressed the City's condolences to Mr. Keating's wife and family on his passing.

On February 25, 2023, the Long Lake Fire Department hosted an 'Everyone Can Save a Life' hands-on CPR event, organized by Kelly Grady and benefiting the American Heart Association.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Receive Minutes of February 21, 2023 Economic Development Authority Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of February 21, 2023 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve Issuance of a 1 to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Church of St. George's 2023 Festival of Music Event on Saturday, April 29, 2023
- E. Authorize the Preparation and Disclosure of an Employment Offer Letter to Fire Chief Candidate
- F. Authorize Staff to Engage Supplemental Special Counsel Services on As-Needed Basis
- G. Ratify March 7, 2023 Action taken by the EDA on the Purchase of Real Property, PID # 34-118-23-32-0002

Administrator Weske confirmed that Mayor Miner and Council member Dyvik would be given the opportunity to review the employment offer letter referenced in Consent Agenda Item E prior to sending the letter to the candidate.

*A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Miner, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

## **OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

**Bryan Miller, 295 Lakeview Avenue** – Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to offer his opinion on current events. He stated that he assumed that everyone present tonight was aware of the accusations going on within the City of Orono, as reported in a recent Star Tribune article. He commented that he takes any accusation of the type reported on very seriously, and feels the individuals involved must be investigated just as they would be in a private corporation. He felt that dismissing these allegations was unacceptable and noted his concern that the accusations would extend further and effect things like the Police and Fire Departments. Considering the current climate in the community, he would encourage the Council to rescind their current counteroffer to Orono regarding the Long Lake Fire Department until the City of Orono can provide a reasonable explanation regarding the accusations and what is being done to address the concerns. He added that he did not think remaining silent or ignoring this situation was an acceptable response, the situation is not a joke, and he encouraged everyone to quickly get very serious.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Resolution of Support for Local Housing, Land use and Zoning Authority**

City Clerk Moeller explained that proposed legislation has been brought before the House in recent years that would reduce local control over land use and zoning. The League of Minnesota Cities has asked cities to show their unified support for maintaining the integrity and recognizing the importance of local land use and zoning controls. She noted that 119 other cities have already adopted a resolution in the same or similar form.

*A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-16 supporting housing and local land use and zoning decision-making authority. Ayes: all.*

### **Updates and Discussion Regarding Fire Department Matters**

Mayor Miner reported that a future fire services planning group meeting had taken place during the previous week. He noted that Wayzata has ordered a ladder truck that should be delivered in about 36 months.

Also, he had spoken with the Loretto Fire Chief and was informed that there will be an official vote regarding the Loretto/Hamel Fire Departments merger next week.

He indicated that he and Council member Dyvik had gone to the State capitol last week and met with legislative representatives regarding the Resolution that was passed at the last Council meeting that objected to proposed legislation by the City of Orono regarding the Long Lake Fire Relief Association. Council member Dyvik added that the message he had heard from the meeting with the representatives was that unless all parties were agreeable, then a bill like that proposed by Orono would not move forward.

Mayor Miner stated that the City had interviewed finalists for the Fire Chief position last week, and as part of the Consent Agenda, the Council authorized staff to extend an offer of employment to one of the candidates and staff will be working on those details in the next few days.

Council member Dyvik shared that he recently had a long conversation with Orono Council member Matt Johnson. He observed that there has been silence regarding the counteroffer that the City had made to Orono about five weeks ago. He commented that he felt he'd had a good conversation

with Mr. Johnson, and following their dialogue, Mr. Johnson conveyed that he had a better understanding of where the City was coming from with respect to their counteroffer. Council member Dyvik noted that he would like to make sure the lines of communication are kept open between the two cities. Mr. Johnson had informed Council member Dyvik that the City of Orono has undertaken an analysis study that would not be completed until May or June.

Mayor Miner mentioned that one of the firefighters had come to the City Council Work Session and had shared that some firefighters wanted to take a more active role in working on a proposal for agreement between the two cities.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Public Works Snow Removal** – Mayor Miner expressed his appreciation to the Public Works staff for keeping up with all the snowfall events.

**Long Lake Waters Association Update** - Council member Joyce had reached out to the Long Lake Waters Association and learned they are in discussions with Carp Solutions about a possible spring migration monitoring and potential carp harvesting. Carp Solutions is apparently very busy and there is also uncertainty about water levels, so they will know more later in the spring. She also mentioned that the Long Lake Waters Association is planning some sort of Earth Day themed event, but not until June.

**Post Office is Hiring** – Council member Joyce reported that she was recently at the Long Lake Post Office and learned that they are actively hiring. She encouraged people to look into their open positions if they are interested in employment.

**Bonding Bill Update** - Mayor Miner noted that Representative Myers had contacted him last week to let him know that the City's request for inclusion in the bonding bill had made its way to the advisor's office.

**Council/Staff Gathering** - Moeller asked if the Council would be in support of attending an informal happy hour get together with City staff on a Tuesday evening around 5:00 pm or so. Council members were in favor of staff beginning to look at scheduling possibilities for a Council/staff happy hour gathering.

## **ADJOURN**

*Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:55 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske  
City Administrator